Reduction in Import duty on Aseptic Form Fill Seal Machines

173. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import duty on aseptic Form-Fill-Seal machines for packing intravenous fluids by the pharmaceutical industry has been proposed to be reduced from 40 to 15 per cent; and

(b) if so, where from and since when the imports of such machines are made and how far it is going to benefit the people or the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) With effect from 28th February, 1993, the import duty on aseptic Form-Fill-Seal machines for use in pharmaceutical industry has been reduced from 40% to 15%.

(b) The Government have no data regarding the sources of imports as also the time since these machines are being imported. The concession in import duty is intended to improve the availability of aseptically packed intravenous fluids to the general public.

Strike by Bank Employees

174. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the employees of Banks, Insurance and financial institutions obsered a day's strike throughout the country to press their demands;

(b) if so, what are the details of the strike and the demands for which the strike was observed;

(c) what are the reasons for which the demands of the employees are not being conceded by Government;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the employees of these institutions propose for another strike in May, 1993; and

(e) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Members affiliated to All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) and Bank Employees' Federation of India (BEFI), alongwith unions from Reserve Bank of India and other financial institutions, went on a day's strike on March 29, 1993 in support of the following demands—

1. Introduction of Pension as third retiral benefit.

2. Early wage revision.

3. Bonus for all.

4. Alleged move for privatisation of financial institutions etc.

(c) to (e) Indian Banks' Association has reported that they have received a notice for strike on 11th and 12th May, 1993 from certain employees' unions.

In the banking industry matters relating to pay, allowances, and service conditions of the bank employees are decided through bilateral negotiations between Indian Banks' Association (Representing the banks' managements) and the representatives of workmen unions. In terms of provisions contained in the Vth Bipartite Settlement, which expired on 31-10-92, four rounds of discussions on the charters of demands submitted by the employees unions for the

VIth Bipartite Settlement have so far taken place between IBA and the representatives of employees' unions last being held on 13-4-93. I.B.A. is continuing the negotiations.

Traditionally, wage settlements in RBI and other Financial Institutions follow the bank's settlements.

As per existing practice formal discussions with the Officers Associations will take place after the discussions with the Award Staff on VIth Bipartite Settlement have been finalised.

Action at the Government level can only be initiated after the results of negotiations are reported to Government by the I.B.A.

Proposal for public borrowings through project specific Bonds

175. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV :
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposals from different parts of the country for the public borrowing through project specific Bonds for accelerating completion of Irrigation Projects;

(b) if so, what are the Projects from Maharashtra; and

(c) what action Government intends to take on such projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Maharashtra had requested the Central Government for approval of raising special irrigation Bonds for Rs. 100 crores during 1992-93 on experimental basis.

(c) The present scheme of public sector bonds is restricted to only those undertakings which are wholly or partly owned by Central Government. State Level undertakings are to be governed by SEBI guidelines on debentures. Borrowings by the State Government are governed by the standard requirements of financing annual plans as approved by Planning Commission.

Bank advances to sick industrial units

176. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the RBI conducted a review recently of sick/weak industrial units;

(b) if so, what are its findings; and

(c) what is the total amount of bank advances locked up in such sick/weak units according to this report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducts half yearly reviews of sick industrial units financed by scheduled commercial banks. As at the end of September, 1991 (latest available) there were 2,20,402 SSI sick, 979 non-SSI weak and 2,006 non-SSI sick units involving outstanding credit of Rs. 2,917.24 crores, Rs. 2,658.11 crores and Rs. 5,367.93 crores respectively.

Of the sick SSI units, 15,631 units were viable, 2,02,365 were non-viable and in 2,406 units viability is yet to be decided. Of the viable units 12,919 were put under nursing programme.